

Fools: *He who asks questions is a fool for five minutes, but he who doesn't ask remains a fool forever.* —Chinese proverb

Electronic Library

by Ruby Mizue

Announcing... new HED website design!

We are pleased to announce the unveiling of our redesigned HED web site (www.poh.usace.army.mil). Our new web look was designed with the following goals in mind:

- Presentation of a unique, professional web identity for HED, distinct from POD
- User-friendly navigation, with easy access to topics of public interest
- Focus on customer service, with a common framework for featuring our projects and services
- Compliance with USACE design guides and standards

The framework of our new web site has been converted to our new look. We are continuing to convert pages with the old kapa design to our new look as well. Please bear with us during this transition period.

We welcome your comments and suggestions! Should you encounter any problems locating pages, please use the Site Map, or contact Ruby Mizue at 438-8348.

NEW Items Posted on the Net

A new District regulation, **POHR 1110-1-5**, *Design Review*,

Lessons Learned, and Implementation of Design Review and Checking System (DRCHECKS)/Corporate Lessons Learned (CLL) has been issued and posted on the Internet at <http://www.pod.usace.army.mil/info/hedreg.html>.

New items are posted to the Honolulu District INTRANET on a continual basis. To access the Intranet at <https://pohinfo>, be sure to use *Internet Explorer* as your browser. From the POHINFO home page, you can link to newly listed After Action Reviews or the new Internal Review Audit Reports page. The Intranet is only accessible to Honolulu District employees and HQ POD staff.

UPDATE on Search Engines

From time to time, we've all attempted to find something on the Internet using one of many search engines available. Each operates a little differently, and if you are not careful, you may either miss getting the "hits" you want/need, OR you may be flooded with extensive listings of sites that miss the mark.

For a comprehensive comparison and evaluation of Internet search engines from a searcher's perspective, check out "*Search Engine Showdown—The Users' Guide to Web Searching*" at <http://www.notess.com/search/>. This site is created and maintained by Greg Notess, a librarian and an authority on Internet information resources. Browse the site for hints on searching for specific information—there's something for both the novice and most serious of searchers.

PRODUCTIVITY CORNER

Messengers in peril

The Persian Messenger Syndrome —killing the bearer of bad news—is frequently mentioned as a major reason why managers are kept in the dark concerning unexpected setbacks. The syndrome traces its origins to ancient Greece and Sophocles' tragedy *Antigone*, wherein a messenger fears for his life because he knows Creon, the king of Thebes, will be unhappy with the news he brings. The Persian Messenger Syndrome survives today in modern industry. General Motors Corporation is an organization well-known for its hostility to bearers of bad news concerning the firm, its products, or its declining market share. The company joke is, "At GM, we not only shoot the messenger, we bayonet the stretcher carrier."

—Ragan's Communications

The power of perseverance

Sylvia Porter started out as an English major when she went to Hunter College but switched to economics after the stock market crash of 1929. Her widowed mother had lost her life savings of \$30,000 in the crash, and Sylvia wanted to find out how that much money could simply disappear overnight. After graduation, she applied for a job with the Associated Press, but was told that the AP had never hired a female financial reporter and never would. So instead she went to work as a financial assistant at an investment house on Wall Street.

By combining on-the-job experience with additional college courses, Sylvia became an expert in government bonds and from 1934-35 she published a bond-related newsletter called *Reporting on Governments*. The credibility she gained with that publication helped her land a job in 1935 as the financial writer for the New York Post. She was hired at the Post on the same day that all the members of the financial department were laid off in a cost-cutting move, and one of the conditions of her employment was that she assume the duties of all the dismissed employees. Initially, she wrote three columns a week, but by 1938 her column was a daily feature and it was later syndicated to hundreds of newspapers across the United States. Until 1942, because of the bias against women in the financial field, her columns appeared under the byline S.F. Porter so her readers would assume that she was a man. Her column ran at the Post for 43 years until she changed papers in 1978 and wrote for the New York Daily News until her death in 1991.

—Ragan's Communications

Leading by example

In World War II, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower was picked to head the Supreme Allied Command because he wasn't a charismatic or dramatic man. Eisenhower was tough. In a meeting with his top generals shortly before D-Day, he reminded them of the importance of leading by example: "An army is like a piece of string," he said. "If you try to push it from behind, it just tangles. Soldiers have to be led from the front."

—Ragan's Communications